



January 16, 2018

The Honorable Hank Vaupel
Anderson House Office Building
N-896 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Vaupel and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation and our local affiliate, Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, we urge you to oppose legislative proposals that would remove existing patient protections related to cost-sharing for prescription medications. We are concerned that HB 4472, which attempts to create a pathway for biosimilar substitution similar to the pathway that currently exists for other medications, could be amended to negatively impact access to and cost-sharing for other medications, including those on which people living with epilepsy rely on for seizure control and to maintain their quality of life.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. We foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime. For the majority of people living with epilepsy, epilepsy medications are the most common and most cost-effective treatment for controlling and/or reducing seizures, and they must have meaningful and timely access to physician-directed care. Epilepsy medications are not interchangeable and treatment of epilepsy is highly individualized. There is no "one size fits all" treatment option for epilepsy, and the response to medications can be different for each person. Maintain seizure control with minimal side effects requires careful evaluation and monitoring by physicians and their patients. To change, limit, or deny access to medications could be extremely dangerous.

The Epilepsy Foundation and the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan urge you to oppose changes to House Bill 4472 that would negatively impact access and cost-sharing for all medications. Please do not hesitate to contact Angela Ostrom, Chief Legal Officer & Vice President of Public Policy at 301-918-3766 or aostrom@efa.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brianna Romines
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

Philip M. Gattone, M.Ed.
President & CEO
Epilepsy Foundation